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UNCLAS HANOI 000752

SIPDIS

FOR CA/OCS/ACS/EAP; EAP/EX; EAP/BCLTV; OES/STC (M.GOLDBERG);
OES/IHA (D.SINGER AND N.COMELLA)
BANGKOK FOR RMO, CDC
STATE PASS HHS
USDA FOR FAS/PASS TO APHIS
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA/AP FOR LEW STERN
DIRAFMIC FOR WENNER, MULLINS, WYMA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMED AMGT CASC EAGR TBIO VM AFLU

SUBJECT: VIETNAM - AVIAN FLU: SITUATION REPORT

REF: Hanoi 626 and previous
In Poultry

¶1. According to the Director of the Epidemiology Division of Department of Animal Health (DAH) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), only 7 new outbreaks of Avian Influenza, type H5N1 (AI) were detected in poultry (in Tra Vinh and Ben Tre provinces) over the past two weeks. Currently, there are 7 provinces that have reported new cases of bird flu over the past 21 days (Ben Tre, Can Tho, Dong Thap, Hau Giang, Tra Vinh, Vinh Long, and Hai Phong.) The DAH estimates that the total number of poultry killed or culled from January to March 27 is: 450,000 chickens, 790,000 ducks, and 510,000 quail.

In Humans

¶2. The WHO website has reported no new cases since March 11th, and continues to report just 28 cases of H5N1 in the 2004-2005 outbreak. The following cases have been reported in the media with confirmation from MOH and/or the National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE).

¶3. False Alarm: A local newspaper reported that 195 people had AI symptoms at the Chau Hoa commune in central Quang Binh province, 400 kilometers south of Hanoi. However, GVN officials found that only one five year-old boy who tested positive for H5N1. His 13 year-old sister died on March 9th and officials believe the cause was H5N1. (Because her remains had already been buried, officials were not able to test for the virus.) The remainder of the individuals did not have significant respiratory symptoms and officials have ruled out other cases in that commune at this time.

¶4. The Ministry of Health has confirmed two other cases of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza: a 17-year-old girl from the northern province of Nam Dinh and a 40-year-old woman from the northern province of Quang Ninh. The 17-year-old girl has died. Officials also suspect AI infection in a family of five in Hai Phong (also in the North) that became sick after chickens on their farm died. Confirmation of H5N1 is pending.

MARINE